

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1472
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USAFE
USAREUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 2805

USAFE, USAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, GW
SUBJECT: "RUSSELL TRIBUNAL" OR THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
FRG

REF: FRANKFURT 2641

1. THE "THIRD RUSSELL TRIBUNAL" COMPLETED ITS FIRST
SESSION ON THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FRG ON
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APRIL 4, 1978 WITH THE PRDICTED AND PREDICTABLE
RESULTS. BY VOTE OF 16 IN FAVOR AND NONE OPPOSED THE
SELF-APPOINTED "JURY" ASSERTED: A) THAT CITIZENS
OF THE FRG ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE PROFESSIONS
IN THE PUBLIC (I.E. CIVIL) SERVICE BECAUSE OF THEIR
POLITICAL CONVICTION; B) THAT THIS SITUATION
CONSTITUTES A "SERIOUS THREAT" TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND

THAT C) THE PRACTICE OF SO-CALLED PROHIBITION OF PROFESSION (BERUFSVERBOTE) IS BEING APPLIED IN A DISCRIMINATORY MANNER AGAINST PROPONENTS OF CERTAIN POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS - MEANING OF COURSE LEFT WING POLITICAL CONVICTIONS. ON A FOURTH QUESTION, WHETHER BERUFSVERBOTE-ALLEGEDLY PRACTICED BY GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES ARE LINKED WITH SIMILAR PRACTICES BY TRADE UNIONS, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CHURCHES, SEVEN "JURORS/ FOUND THE FRG GUILTY, EIGHT WANTED MORE EVIDENCE AND ONE ABSTAINED.

2. IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1979, TWO PREPARATORY COMMISSIONS WERE FORMED TO DETERMINE EXISTENCE OR EXTENT OF CENSORSHIP IN THE FRG AND WHETHER THE RIGHTS OF DEFENDANTS AND DEFENSE COUNSELS ARE BEING UNDERMINED IN GERMANY. NO DECISION WAS REACHED WHETHER THE QUESTION OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" SHOULD BE DEALT WITH, AND A SUB-COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED TO STUDY THIS ISSUE, AS WELL AS THE QUESTION WHETHER AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO VISIT THE PRISONERS IN STUTTGART'S STAMMHEIM PRISON. THE LATTER UNDERTAKING RESULTED IN REVERSAL OF AN EARLIER DECISION BY SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE "JURY" THAT THEY WOULD MAKE SUCH VISITS IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY.

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3. PRESS REACTION TO THE END OF THIS AFFAIR HAS, WITH VERY LITTLE EXCEPTION (E.G. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU), BEEN CRITICAL AND DEPRECATING AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IN VOLUME. LEHMANN

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